

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 09/978,593 Confirmation No. 5237  
Applicant : Nana K. Ayisi  
Filed : October 18, 2001  
TC/A.U. : 1648  
Examiner : Ulrike Winkler  
  
Docket No. : S&B-C161

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
U.S.A.

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 3 of this paper.

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Attention: Examiner Ulrike Winkler

Group Art Unit 1648

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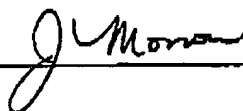
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